

**From:** Esben Nielsen  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 12:00pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am not an American Citizen and I do presently not live in the USA, although I have stayed there for 16 months in total as a student and as a scientist. But Microsoft's monopoly is worldwide so I feel I too should have a right to comment.

Now I work as a software developer in Denmark and I feel the enormous pressure on companies and employees for using Microsoft products, not because they are better but because of interoperability problems and lack of support of other platforms by third party products. Simple things like browsing the companies intranet with anything but Internet Explorer because the authorization scheme used by the Microsoft server is not compliant with the HTTP-protocol. Thus deploying other clients into the company is impossible without redoing the whole infrastructure first.

At home we use Linux as the platform, although we still keep an Windows 98 around to run programs only available on Windows. It can be done but due to a lot of interoperability problems and lack of support it is a hard - and mostly impossible for a non-technical home user. Not because Linux in itself is that hard to use, but because the homeuser can't get any help with simple things like setting up his internet dialup and stuff like that simply because those companies don't have supporters who know Linux. They are thus locked into using Windows even though other products in itself might be better.

But in itself Linux is a good product. Which is very surprising considered that it is developed in according to communist principles: Linux itself and much of the software usually comming along with it is developed according to the economical model, where people work and share because they want to do so - not for money. And the result can compete with Windows, the frontrunner of the capitalistic system!! How can that be? All experience tells us that free competition is much better than communism and socialism. So what is wrong? The answer is obvious from the previous sentence: Free competition. We don't have free competition. If we had this situation would never have occured.

Therefore I beg you to do your duty and restore free competition to the software market. As others have said (forinstance <http://www.kegel.com/remedy/letter.html>) the settlement is totally inappropriate in doing that. In my view only a split up of Microsoft into into smaller companies - basicly one for each product they have. First then will these and other vendors truely start to compete.

Esben Nielsen  
Work:  
Cotas Computer Technology A/S  
Paludan Mullersvej 82  
8200 Aarhus N  
Private

Moellegade 7A, 3., 4

8000 Aarhus C

Phone:

+45 86 12 73 79

Mobile:

+45 27 13 10 05